

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 are amended and new claim 10 is added.

Claims 1-5 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being unpatentable over Hase et al. (JP 2002-361744). Favorable reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

The Examiner cites Hase et al. for teaching slow-cooling of the laminate by passing the laminate through a second-stage set of rollers 4b set at a lower temperature than the laminating temperature. These rollers, however, are used to thermally laminate. In other words, linear pressure is added by the second set of rollers 4b. See the abstract stating that the laminate is gradually cooled while being pressurized so as to reach a temperature near a glass transition temperature for the heat-resistant adhesive film. Due to this repeatedly added linear pressure, Hase et al. may result in a strain accumulation in the laminate, which causes dimensional change.

In contrast thereto, the slow cooling step of the present invention is different from a thermal lamination step which is performed under pressure. That is, the slow cooling step of the present invention is performed after lamination is completed, in contrast to Hase et al. which continues to apply pressure by the second set of rollers 4b during cooling. See page 9, line 6 through page 10, line 13 of the specification regarding the importance of controlling the temperature after lamination in the dimensional change caused by natural cooling.

Accordingly, in order to more clearly distinguish over Hase et al., claims 1 and 7 have been amended to clarify the lamination step as applying linear pressure, and the slow cooling step as being conducted without applying linear pressure. Furthermore, new claim 10 is added to

further specify that the cooling can be conducted by the slow cooling roller only or by the slow cooling roller in combination with at least one of a far infrared heater, a near infrared heater or a heating oven (see pages 16 and 17 of the specification).

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hase et al. further in view of Nakano and Kimura et al. and claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hase et al. in view of Nakano and Kimura et al. Favorable reconsideration of these rejections is earnestly solicited.

The combination of Hase et al. with Nakano and/or Kimura et al. fails to teach or suggest the features required by the present claims, as noted above. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of these rejections is earnestly solicited.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

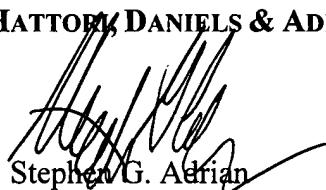
Application No.: 10/582,884
Art Unit: 1791

Amendment
Attorney Docket No.: 062404

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTERS, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Stephen G. Adrian

Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,878
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

SGA/arf

Attachment: Petition for Extension of Time